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MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1910.

AT THE CHURCHES YESTERDAY.

There was good preaching in all the churches of Richmond yesterday, and fine music and large congregations. Everybody was happy; for it was a little bit of Heaven let down to earth, and even through their tears the mourning ones caught a vision of the hill of frankincense and rested confidently upon their faith "until the day break and the shadows flee away."

This morning the secular observance of the Day will begin, but, in the minds of those who read the lessons and said the prayers and sang the songs of Zion yesterday, with a higher and better appreciation of what it really means of hope and joy to humanity, that this is but the beginning and not the sum of existence. The true philosophy of the season is to strengthen the weak, to lift up the fallen, to rejoice in the last and greatest of the Commandments to love one's neighbor as one's self.

At Holy Trinity yesterday, in a sermon fifteen minutes long, the Rev. Dr. Gravatt said several things that ought to have been said, and said them so well that they would be worth repeating at any service throughout the year.

The incarnation is not that Christ came in human form, but that in coming He put the Christ-spirit into humanity.

Communities build houses, but communities do not build men.

People think more about the future than about the past when some of the best things are in the past.

This is not exactly how the preacher said these things; but, told in this way, they give something of the ideas he had in mind; that there is a divinity in humanity; that men and women are not to be judged by the houses in which they dwell, but by what they do that is worthy and helpful; that the future can be improved only by the development of the high and noble lessons of the past. The true idea of human progress is to be found only in the apostolic formula "from glory to glory."

God bless us every one, to-day and throughout the year and the years ahead of us, until to-day shall become to-morrow.

THE DECADENCE OF LYNCHING.

Lynch law was not invoked i n1910 so often as it was in 1909, and the figures show that for the last three years there has been a steady falling off in deaths from lynching. Fifty-seven such deaths were recorded in this country this year, a smaller number than in any previous year in the last sixteen years. In 1909 the total was seventy, and in 1908 it was sixty-five.

Fifty-two of the fifty-seven executions in 1910 were of negroes. Ten of these were charged with the usual crime. In eleven of the remaining number, the charge was an attempt to commit an assault. Of the five white men who were lynched, four were hanged for murder and the other for aiding and abetting jail delivery. It is to be noted that, in several cases in which negroes were lynched, assault was also involved.

Carl Etherington, an agent of the Anti-Saloon League, was the only man lynched in the North. This crime took place in Ohio.

The record of 1910 by States is: Alabama, eight negroes; Arkansas, eight negroes; Florida, eight negroes and two whites; Georgia, ten negroes; Louisiana, one white man; Mississippi, five negroes; Missouri, three negroes; North Carolina, one negro; Oklahoma, one negro; Ohio, one white man; South Carolina, one negro; Tennessee, two negroes; Texas, four negroes and two whites. Virginia has a blank record for the year.

Lynching of white men is not so frequent as the lynching of negroes. Of the five whites hanged, two were Italians, who were executed in Florida. They were accused of murder and inciting riots during the cigar-makers' strike in Tampa. Another white victim was a Mexican, who was shot and burned on the Texas border, after confessing that he had slaughtered in cold blood a white woman.

The list of crimes for which the victims were slain is as follows: Murder, 17; criminal assault, 10; attempted criminal assault, 11; robbery, 4; attempted murder, 7; aiding and abetting jail delivery, 3; assault with intent to do bodily injury, 1; insulting women, 2; threatening to commit murder, 2.

It is a singularly remarkable fact that in two cases the negro victims were lynched by mobs composed solely of their own race. Likewise, noteworthy is the fact that in nearly every case the victim was hanged immediately or shot, without the burning at the stake or other act of torture that once were so frequent.

The statistics cited apply to summary punishment inflicted by mobs on persons alleged to have committed crimes for which such persons should have been tried by law. Race riots are not included.

Thorough gratification will be felt on the part of all who believe in the reign of law that mob violence in the form of lynching is substantially declining. Public opinion is changing in the South as to this lawless method of execution, and as the public mind is informed as to the reasons for abstaining from lynching correspondingly there is a decrease of such flagrant breaches of the law of the land.

WELCOMED EXPATRIATES.

Hundreds of former residents are back in Richmond again for Christmas and are welcomed as prodigals under many a hospitable roof. They came here because there is no place like home and because a Christmas in Richmond is better than a Christmas anywhere else in the world. They always come back for the Yuletide, and we are glad that they are here and hope they will stay a long time and finally come back for good.

They live in a legion of cities and States, but their hearts are in Richmond all of the time. Some of them are men who count their wealth in six and seven figures; others are not so well off; but all of them are making good, we feel sure. There are many young men in the lot, and we venture to express the hope that they will come back soon and carry on their life-work in Richmond, because this is really the place for them.

STRIKING OFF THE STRIPES.

One hundred and seventeen convicts were pardoned by Southern Governors in order that they might enjoy Christmas beyond prison bars.

Governor Campbell, of Texas, pardoned seventy-five, and it is likely that twenty-five more will be set free before New Year's.

The Christmas present of a pardon was made by Governor Donaghey, of Arkansas, to eleven men whose crimes ranged from larceny to criminal assault. A like number were pardoned by Governor Noel, of Mississippi.

Twenty men in Louisiana were not only pardoned, but also were given a new suit of clothes and a $5 bill each.

DR. COOK RIPS UP RASMUSSEN.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the Original Discoverer of the North Pole, is evidently beginning to clear his decks for action. Yesterday he said some things about Rasmussen that will make that half-breed squirm when he sees them, and he displayed a chivalry towards his chief rival for Arctic honors, Commander Peary, altogether in keeping with the spirit of Christmas, when he said that he "will take Mr. Peary's word in preference to either that of Rasmussen or the Eskimos."

In his opinion, a fortiori, Rasmussen is a faker of the most pronounced description; which view, a posteriori, appears to warrant the Doctor in his characterization of the Danish-Eskimo as a person who would "stoop to the depths of a literary muckraker to get public attention." "Why," he asks; "why did he (Rasmussen) jump into the Cook band-wagon?" And echo answers, "Why did he jump into the Cook band-wagon?"

We give it up. Rasmussen does not know; at least, it is hardly to be expected that he will tell. The delightful feature of this new development of the controversy is that it indicates Dr. Cook's intention to take up all of his enemies and expose their utter ignorance of the first principles of Arctic exploration, and by confusing his judges, to establish his rightful claim to the first discovery of the top of the globe.

AN EDITOR'S HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

The people of Augusta, Georgia, have honored themselves in honoring Thomas W. Loyless, the editor of the Augusta Chronicle. Several days ago they presented him with a massive silver service in token of their appreciation of his faithful and splendid work for that community, work into which he has thrown all the energies of his very intense nature and work which has resulted in great benefits to the town. It was a thing worth doing and it was done well.

Editor Loyless has had a hard field in which to work—active competition on every hand, a restricted territory for the circulation of his paper, a small community around him, bad railroad schedules with which to contend, narrow prejudices to overcome, frequent misconceptions to meet, and yet in the face of all discouragements, he has pressed straight forward with his work for Augusta, saying the right things at the right time, planning in big ways for the upbuilding of the place, keeping his head and losing nothing of heart or hope in his service to his people. It is to their great credit that they have manifested at this happy time of the year their faith in him and their regard for him. It is the best investment they have ever made, for it proves that they know a good thing when they have it.

Congratulations to Loyless that he has received this recognition from those who are best qualified to testify of his great ability as a working journalist and his value as a man.

MUNICIPAL DANCES.

Milwaukee is trying to solve one of her vexing social questions by establishing a municipal dance hall. The innovation has met with almost instantaneous success, and the people's dances in the auditorium have been so popular that they will be made permanent. Two weeks ago the first dance was given. It was fairly attended, but more than 5,000 people came to the second dance. One thousand more were turned away because of lack of room.

Three halls are provided for the dancers. There was a great storm on the night of the second dance, but thousands took advantage of the low admission fee of 15 cents and came to dance. There was a large floor committee, headed by the president of the Milwaukee Normal School and the assistant superintendent of the city schools. These men and their fellow committeemen saw to it that no girl who desired to dance failed to have a partner.

Of course, the object of the city is to provide recreation for the people under restrictions, so that the least harm may be done. In large cities the people are going to dance, and the only question about it is: Shall they dance in good places or in cheap halls, which are under no supervision and potential for evil? The younger generation of a city—we are speaking of the great mass of the people, the poverty-haunted majority—learns to dance on the sidewalk or in the streets to the fascinating music of the hurdy-gurdy. Later the boys and girls seek dancing halls, and the average city dancing hall reeks with a morally poisonous atmosphere.

In establishing a municipal dancing hall, Milwaukee is experimenting to an extent that is almost unparalleled in directing the pleasures of the people, but it will not be surprising if the plan meet with striking success.

CHOKING THE LEGISLATIVE MILL.

According to the New York Evening Post, more than 40,000 bills were introduced into the Sixtieth Congress in the year 1907-'09. In the present Congress, exclusive of the session which has just closed, nearly 34,000 bills were introduced. In 1909 Congress and the several States enacted 12,000 laws. During the years 1907-'09, 45,000 bills were introduced in the Houses of the various State Legislatures.

There is something radically wrong in a situation like this. The nation does not need one-third of the laws proposed. The real trouble is that so many of these measures are introduced with no thought of their passage at any time. They are put on the calendar so that they may furnish buncombe and campaign material for the member who introduces them. Many of these are introduced with the hope that they will be killed or denied consideration, so that the member may rant against the Speaker or the various committees. To the folks at the corner store, the member can explain with convincing oratorical flourish that it was the "corporations" at Washington that whipped a bill that never was intended to be passed.

The right to introduce a bill can hardly be curtailed, but it does seem a great pity that there could not be some sort of method to limit the number of measures to be introduced.

THE SEVEN GARNETTS.

Seven sons who wore the Gray—that was the proud record of Muscoe Garnett, of Ben Lomond, a distinguished jurist and statesman of ante-bellum Virginia. It is said that no father gave more sons than he to either army which fought in the War Between the States, and, as much ado has been made about Mrs. Bixby, who gave five sons to the Union cause and was congratulated so touchingly therefor by President Lincoln, the claim seems to be most reasonable.

Draped fittingly in the flags of Virginia and of the Confederacy, a tablet was unveiled in the court-house at Tappahannock last Monday. It commemorated the public service of Judge Muscoe Garnett and the seven gallant sons who were not disobedient unto the call of their mother State. Senator Daniel was to have been the orator of the occasion, but on account of his ill-health the unveiling had been postponed from time to time until the lips that would have eulogized these patriotic Virginians as none others could were closed in death before an opportunity came.

It must have been a ceremony that brought a mist to the eyes and a stirring of love of country to the soul. The addresses were made by one of the gallant seven, Muscoe Garnett, Jr., and by his grandson, W. C. Garnett. The Tidewater Democrat well says that "the names on the tablet were sacred to those two speakers. The task was a delicate one. The addresses were full of tender pathos."

One of the speakers said: "There is no spot dearer to me than old Essex. Along her rivers are the memories of my childhood, on her hills are the bones of my ancestors. In the name of the Garnett family of the house of Ben Lomond the tablet is presented with the invocation that all the descendants of Muscoe Garnett, of Ben Lomond, may be a united house and stand firm."

Two of the seven brothers died before the bugles of Appomattox sounded the sad Feveille of the Confederacy. These were William Kemp Garnett, a lieutenant of Company D, Fifty-fifth Virginia, who was killed at Cold Harbor, and Frank B. Garnett, of the Ninth Virginia Cavalry, who died in Richmond of camp fever.

Commonwealth's Attorney Blakey made a fine speech of acceptance, in which he appropriately read the Lincoln letter to Mrs. Bixby, which concludes with the following words:

"I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of the nation."

On the Garnett tablet unveiled is engraved the family coat of arms, with the motto "Diligentia et honore," which is itself most significantly suggestive of the patriotism and courage of the seven brothers who wore the Gray in such a way as to make their name a fine heritage for future generations who shall bear it. Of the sons and of their father it can be truly said that for their country they did what they could.

THE CIRCLET OF THE CHATTEL.

That the engagement ring is a humbug is the declaration made by Dr. Morris Korshet in presenting his engagement present to his fiancee, Miss Gertrude Riskin, of Passaic, New Jersey. A few nights ago at the home of the young woman a party was given, the object of which was to announce the betrothal of the happy pair. On this occasion, Dr. Korshet presented to his fiancee a number of excellent books, instead of the customary "sparkler" ring. It was a choice lot that the young woman received from her precedent-smashing lover—Hugo, Balzac, Shaw, Ibsen, Tolstoi, Zangwill, Jack London, Allen Upward, and others were represented in the engagement library.

Dr. Korshet then made a graceful speech to the company present and to the overwhelmed bride. He said:

"In times long gone by, man either captured his honored female partner or purchased her from her parents with presents. He placed a crude ring upon her finger. It was regarded as a symbol of inferiority, and made the wearer appear in the light of personal property. Miss Riskin will not be my chattel, but my equal, my companion and helpmate. What principally distinguishes people is their ability to think and understand. Therefore, I give Miss Riskin something for her mind and not an ornament for her finger."

All will agree that Dr. Korshet's sentiments as to the status of his future wife are noble and correct. Yet, it is to be doubted whether or not this new departure will be favored among the fair sex. With a fine show of triumph, without breathing a word of it by simply bearing her ring a woman can indicate to rivals of her sex that she has won her man. It would be cruel to expect her to carry her books with her to indicate her victory. For rare is the woman who prefers the literary gem to the jewel that is measured in karats.

BUSINESS WOMEN.

The New York Press points out that there are many women in the United States who are managing estates valued at millions of dollars, though they are doing it in the most unostentatious way. One of these is Mrs. Harriet King, who has a ranch near Corpus Christi, Texas. She runs the ranch and her ranges feed 100,000 cattle, 50,000 sheep, and almost 3,000 horses. Two thousand men are in her employ. Mrs. Mary S. Halladay, of St. Louis, is interested in railroads and is asserted to have made $2,500,000 in railroad stocks. A Westerner, Mrs. Rose Hermann, carries on the lumber business of her husband, who died not long ago. She is just as successful as he was. Ten years ago Mrs. Hood Russell was making $10 the week as a stenographer in a law office. She became interested in the oil fields of Kentucky and made a fortune out of them.

These are specific cases, but the business ability of women has been often demonstrated. When their sons and fathers and husbands were fighting under Lee, there were thousands of women who, unaided and inexperienced, managed their estates and carried on the business of their farms. They did it successfully, quietly, and many of them continued their work through years, because their husbands and sons slept forever on the field of honor.

HOW KIPLING DOES IT.

Rudyard Kipling is not nearly so much of a cosmopolitan as he seems. In his poems and prose he appears to have an almost universal first-hand knowledge of men and matters, but such is not the case. His knowledge in many instances is second-hand in the best sense.

Some one asked Kipling not long ago how he ever came to have such exhaustive knowledge of Arctic life as he showed in one of his short stories. In reply, he took from a shelf a United States Government report on Alaska and handed it to his interrogator. In that volume all that Kipling knew of the subject was put in the matter-of-fact language of the naturalist and the ethnologist. From these pages, this greater writer had absorbed not only the facts, but also the very spirit of the life beyond the Arctic circle, just as much so as if he had lived in a hut all through the terrible winter, fished through ice holes, or slain the seal and walrus for food and raiment.

Although countless numbers of these reports fill private and public libraries, Kipling is the only man who has appreciated the literary value of the volumes, which are usually thought to be not worth the printing.

Kipling's latest book is written for juvenile readers, but in it he again reveals his mastery of second-hand facts. He pictures Philadelphia in the presidency of Washington. The Quaker City of that period, its political parties of the early times, its French immigrants, its conspiracies and cabals, its intrigues, are shown as few American writers have shown them. A word or so, and we have a vivid pen picture of Washington, Genet, Talleyrand, Red Jacket, Cornplanter, and, the scene changing, Bonaparte.

Incessant study, attention to detail, wide reading—these are the foundations of Kipling's work.

CARROTS IN THE ASCENDANT.

Hereafter it is to be ham and carrots, for the genuinely Democratic dish, ham and eggs, is soaring so high in price that eggs must be replaced by carrots. A Minneapolis cooking school has discovered that the golden carrot is a fine substitute for the egg, which is golden in another sense. Those who have experimented with the substitute declare that a plum pudding with carrots cannot be distinguished from one made with eggs.

Yet the carrot is more dignified than its use as the chief food of the pivotal people of Atlanta would indicate. It dates back to the fifteenth century, and comes from Holland, where it was doubtless cultivated by the Joneses who owned rose fields there and began later to call themselves Roosevelt. It became popular in England—the carrot, not der Roosevelt—in the sixteenth century, and the English ladies in the absence of feathers, used carrot leaves in their Easter bonnets. A dozen or so of the wives of Henry VIII. made gardens of their heads with the esculent leaves as the predominant effect. Marie Antoinette wore carrot leaves in her coiffure.

The Baltimore News, an authority on vegetables, tells us that the carrot is a splendid remedy for inflammations when made into a poultice. Sliced and dried, it is used as a coffee in certain European countries. It can be distilled into a potent intoxicant, and is frequently used for this purpose in North Carolina, and when blended with the prideful onion by the Texans is consumed in large quantities as a substitute for martini cocktails.

Housewives who are anxious to economize at this season may substitute the carrot for the egg in eggnog. Perhaps we shall come to even that. It is overwhelming evidence of the fact that we are becoming more and more abject in our submission to the food barons when we contemplate using as a principal and favorite food the vegetable which has hitherto been the relished dish of the equine epicure.

SHAKESPEARE VS. COHAN.

Thatcher H. Gould, head of the dramatic department of the University of Illinois, declares that Shakespeare is a "dead one" so far as the theatrical tastes of the students of his institution are concerned. Instead of going into intellectual ecstasy over the immortal productions of the Bard of Avon, most of the theatre-going students prefer the giddy show, the "girly-whirly" production, and fast dances rather than rich sentences of wisdom.

"Macbeth" is "not in it" when it comes to comparing such a play with a comic opera in point of attendance. These conclusions of Mr. Gould convince him that there "should be an uplift to elevate the taste of the merry college youth." He has been driven to express emphatically his view by the fact that two very popular comic operas have played lately in the university town. Mr. Gould questioned 948 of these students. More than 600 confessed that their sentiment in regard to the stage was expressed by the short but strong sentence, "The girls for us!" More than 300 other men shocked the investigator by saying that they had never seen what might be considered a play of the better class.

Doubtless Mr. Gould is right, so far as the facts in the case are concerned. It is unreasonable for him to feel, however, that the student mind is always athirst for literature and science clad in their strictest and severest raiment. The mind that assimilates Old English, biology, Norwegian, calculus, ethics, road construction, and applied agriculture all in one day needs a rest at night, and calls for something light and diverting.

SMOKELESS ENGINES.

So much has the necessity of doing away with the smoke nuisance impressed itself upon the Pennsylvania Railroad that it is spending a tremendous sum of money to get rid of the sooty product of its locomotives. The road has found an invention that will feed soft coal to an engine in such a way as to send out practically no smoke. The attachment of this appliance increases the cost of each engine by one thousand dollars. The Pennsylvania Railroad has six thousand engines. However, despite the enormous cost which will be entailed upon the company, the railroad people feel that the price is not too large to pay for release from what has depleted its treasury and long vexed the public.

The device to be used has been given a thorough trial. If it shall prove practical, it will be worth what it costs the railroad. One of the greatest wastes in modern industry comes from the loss of fuel in smoke and gases. The question is "to get more power from less fuel." Every engine stack is a source of money lost and nuisance created.

Let us hope that the scheme of the Pennsylvania road will be successful and that it may be adopted all over the country, in factories and upon the railroads generally.

A boy ten years old, in New Orleans, was sent to the Charity Hospital last week as a hook worm patient, but when the physicians got through examining him they found that he was suffering from three distinct kinds of intestinal parasites, with strongylydae in predominance. The case is said to be one of the most remarkable on record. Until recently, the strongylydae parasite was not regarded as dangerous, but since it became perniciously active it has been found that there is no cure for it. Where it came from no one seems to know, but we are strongly inclined to the belief that it is a native of Houston, Texas, the native habitat of the boll weevil, and of most of the other things that human flesh and vegetation are heir to.

There appears to be no place in the Department of Justice at Washington for William H. Lewis, the Boston negro who was recently appointed assistant attorney general of the United States. But that is not Mr. Taft's fault. He wished to give him a good place; but as the place was not vacant and could not be filled by him without deposing some other officer who had done good service for the Government, Lewis will have to be carried on the waiting list.

The daily expense of being sick in New York is $2.06. Ailing persons would do well to come to Richmond, where there would be no danger of incurring any expense for this item.

Too much egg-nogg is likely to produce a mental confusion that is responsible for amusing statements. Yesterday a young man from a well-known college stopped in at a friend's for the fifteenth time and took just one more glass. An attractive woman said to him, "Why, Mr. Blank, you are at —— college, aren't you?" The young man smiled in a puzzled way, and replied, "Madam, I really don't know whether I am the college or in Richmond."

The Lynchburg Advance says:

"Is eggnogg permissible in a dry town? asks an anxious contemporary. Well, we should smile."

And we bet you did.

Seventy-five convicts were pardoned by the Governor of Texas yesterday and will resume their activities as prominent citizens of Houston.

Three million boxes of lemons will be brought to this country from the provinces of Messina, Catania and Siracusa. Who the consignee is we do not know, but a large shipment should be sent to a certain leading citizen of Oyster Bay.

Belated husbands returning home late Sunday morning neatly evaded inquiries as to the cause of their lateness by declaring that they had gone to the college fire.

The directory of the living graduates of Yale University is very interesting. We learn from it that the oldest Yale alumnus in Virginia is Stephen Adams, of the class of 1850, a resident of Lynchburg. There are 38 Yale alumni in Virginia.

RESPOND APPOINTED TO COMMAND GUARD

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

PIUS X. has just appointed Colonel Jules Respond, of the Canton de Fribourg, to the command of the Swiss Guard, in succession to Baron Leopold Meyer von Schauensee. The latter's son, Baron Fritz Meyer, would probably have been appointed as his father's successor had it not been for his financial and matrimonial misfortunes. Here in the United States he will be recalled as having married Miss Maude Toland, of Philadelphia, the union turning out very unhappily, owing to the baron's neglect of his wife and his insane extravagance.

The Meyers of Schauensee are among the oldest of the patrician houses of Switzerland, and have for the last 700 years made their home at the Castle of Schauensee, on the shores of the Lake of the Four Cantons, in Switzerland, which was granted to them in 1278 by Emperor Rudolf of Hapsburg. They have been fervent Roman Catholics for eight centuries, and if I lay stress upon this it is because the name of Meyer suggests the Hebraic race, and when in conjunction with the title of baron a nobiliary dignity of modern origin.

The Pope's Swiss Guard is the only corps of the kind now left. In the eighteenth century the Kings of France, of Naples, as well as the Czar of Russia, had their Swiss Guards, and although they used to be denounced in those days as mercenaries, yet they greatly distinguished themselves by the heroism of their defense of the King and Queen of France against the bloodthirsty revolutionists when the latter stormed, first of all Versailles, and afterwards the Tuileries. The Swiss Guard of existence with the overthrow of the Bourbon rule in Italy in 1882, and unless I am much mistaken, the Swiss Guard of the Russian crown was disbanded by Emperor Paul.

The Swiss Guard of the Pope has been in existence for over four centuries, having been first formed in October, 1505, by Pope Julius II., at the suggestion of the Swiss Cardinal Schinner, and the uniforms designated by Michael Angelo, at the request of Pope Julius, remain identically the same as they were in the days of the illustrious master who painted the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. During several pontifical reigns certain features of their uniform, notably their helmet, were modernized. But Pius X. has restored to them the armor and the helmet worn by the corps when it was first enrolled.

The Swiss Guard is recruited almost exclusively from men of the Cantons of Lucerne and of Zurich. They must be more than twenty-five years of age, unmarried and six feet in height. Originally the corps numbered 200, being increased at times to double that figure. To-day there are but little over half that number, consisting of twelve commissioned officers, two drummers and 100 non-commissioned officers and men. They are enlisted for a term of five years, at the close of which they are entitled to a nominal pension. The latter, however, is of but little consideration to them, for they are most of them men of good family, well to do, who enlist in the Swiss Guard, partly for the purpose of fulfilling what they believe to be the traditional duties of their families to the church, and partly on account of the opportunity which it affords them of studying under the most favorable conditions the various branches of art and literature, in the Vatican itself, and also beyond the papal borders, in the city of Rome.

To the members of the Swiss Guard is entrusted the guardianship of what may be described as the frontiers of the papal territory. They stand on duty just inside the Vatican gates, and at the great bronze doors, and no one, be he prince or peasant, can pass in without either showing them an entrance card, duly stamped with the papal arms, or else giving them the password. Of course, since 1870 their duties have been of an essentially pacific character. But in former times they put up many a hard fight in behalf of the Pontiff whom they had sworn to protect; and when the Constable of Bourbon stormed the Eternal City at the head of a French army, something over 300 years ago, he massacred every one of them, to the last man.

King George has promoted George Macartney from the office of consul to that of consul-general, at Kashgar, in Chinese Turkestan. The newly appointed consul-general is a very remarkable man, being half a Chinaman; for, whereas his father was the late Sir Halliday Macartney, a Scotch physician, who died as secretary and councilor of the Chinese embassy in London, and who had previously filled several offices of trust and importance in China, his mother was the daughter of one of the principal mandarins of Nanking, and retained her national religion, instead of becoming a convert to Christianity, when she married Sir Halliday Macartney, while he was director of the imperial arsenal at Nanking. She died after giving birth to a girl and to a boy (now the British consul at Kashgar), and was buried at Nanking, according to native rites, a beautiful pagoda marking her grave.

The fact of Sir George Macartney (who has been decorated by the English crown with the Order of the Indian Empire), belonging, through his mother, to one of the best families in China, naturally causes the Chinese dignitaries and natives in Chinese Turkestan, to regard him with exceptional good will and respect. Moreover, it enables him to fathom the mysterious depths of the Chinese character to an extent altogether beyond any American or European who does not happen to be half a Chinaman himself. It is to George Macartney, moreover, that the scientific world is indebted for the wonderful collection of Central Asian manuscripts that bear his name. He is, indeed, one of the most able and remarkable of England's corps of civil servants in India and Central Asia, and is slated for knighthood, which will enable him to prefix the word "sir" to his Christian name on the occasion of the King's coronation next June.

Lord Home (whose daughter, Lady Margaret, is the wife of the Hon. Reginal Walsh, British consul in New York), is now lying very ill at Douglas Castle, his celebrated home in Lanarkshire. The present castle is a little over 100 years old, having been built on the foundations and embodying a portion of an older castle, which used to be known as "the Castle of Danger," owing to the fact that it proved a perilous resting place to the English governors whose duty it was to hold fast a stronghold regarded during the middle ages as the key to the Western Scottish counties. Sir Walter Scott found in it the inspiration for the last of his novels, which, indeed, bears its name; that of "Castle Dangerous."

Lord Home is one of the great territorial magnates of Scotland, in which kingdom alone his estates extend over an area of 120,000 acres. His wealth comes to him largely through his mother, a daughter of the second and last Lord Montagu of Boughton—Sir Walter Scott's cherished friend and correspondent—who inherited in right of her mother, a Douglas, the immense property which was the subject of contention in that famous suit known as "the great Douglas case." In fact, the patronymic of the family is "Home," and it was only on the death of his mother that the Earl of Home, as heir of her Douglas property, secured permission from the crown to add the name of Douglas to his own.

The Homes have played an important role in Scotch history, the first Lord Home having been Scotch ambassador to England in 1459. The third Lord Home, of Home Castle, led the van of the army at the battle of Flodden Field. The fifth Lord Home was one of the most active partisans of Mary Queen of Scots, and it was in recognition of this that his son was advanced to an earldom by her son, King James. The ninth Earl of Home lost his eldest son, William Lord Douglas, at the battle of Guilford, in the United States, in 1781.